

"The Hobby Horse."

John Hare exudes the warm, pink, comfortable atmosphere of the English "five o'clock"—with its strong tepid tea, and its nice toasted muffins, and its dainty glow, and curtains, and hearth rugs—and all the rest of it. It is a cozy and a charming atmosphere of refinement, almost incomprehensible in the hurly-burly of American life, and those who are anxious to get a whiff of the genuine article cannot do better than acquire it at the Knickerbocker Theatre, where Mr. Hare began an engagement last night in Arthur W. Pinero's comedy "The Hobby Horse."

Hare is not a stranger in this city. Last season his performance of Benjamin Goldfinch in "A Pair of Spectacles" met with so certain a success and so surely eliminated all element of doubt from what at first seemed to be a dubious venture, that nobody was surprised to hear that Hare was returning to America. So New York gave a hearty welcome last night to this quaint, shriveled, truthful little actor, who is satisfied with home effects rather than with the vulgar and tawdry sensationalism of the modern theatre. And in "The Hobby Horse" he found a pleasing vehicle for his peculiar, desecrated humor.

The play was written ten years ago, and produced at that time. It did not meet with success in London, where, in 1886, they said that it was a trifle premature, and would ripen slowly. That is probably why it has been avoided in New York. Managers were like success-ready-made, so few of them having the ability to judge a play with its own merits. Yet "The Hobby Horse" is a good, interesting play, and, better still, it has distinct literary merit. Pinero wrote it when he was dealing with roses and dewdrops, which was before he tackled soiled doves and Mother Tanquerays. He wrote it in the "Sweet Lavender" epoch of his career, but it has none of the sticky, nobby-pammy sentiment of that p. y.

"The Hobby Horse" deals rather Gilbertianly with an ancient husband addicted to horse-melancholy and anxious to found a home for "decayed jockeys," and his sentimental wife, who is a prey to a mania for protecting dirty little boys. You hear them expounding theories in Pinero's clearest and wittiest manner, and you instantly decide that you needn't bother about any plot. Yet a plot there is—exceedingly improbable, but none the less amusing for that. Mrs. Jermyn, the wife, decides to engage upon a two weeks' slumming mission, and takes the place of a young governess who has applied for the position. It is as the slumming picture of an English curate, by-the-by, nourished on bread and butter, and watercress, and shrimps—falls in love with her. Her folly has brought disaster upon an honest English home, and at 11 o'clock Mr. Pinero has proved his case.

This story is interwoven with a rather amusing love affair between the real governess and a tennis-playing lawyer, while a juvenile couple, introduced deviously in the clumy manner so often made known—contributes further entertainment. In fact, "The Hobby Horse" is a bright and diverting piece of English playmaking calculated not to startle, but to steadily please. It is "solid comfort," and you recline easily in your seat in the certain knowledge that you are being admirably taken care of.

Mr. Hare was as easy, natural and indubitably able. The only point possible to complain of was the occasional indistinctness of his diction—an indistinctness that seemed to be dental. I feel convinced that some ingenious American dentist could remove it, and it would be surely worth trying. Yet this actor's work was convincing throughout, and—as I said last season in the time of "A Pair of Spectacles"—he gave you careful, deliberate, artistic work without the least struggle for effect, and with no theatricalism. Hare's only rival in New York at present is J. E. Dodson, the actor who stood out so luminously in "Under the Red Rose." When you see men like Hare and Dodson, you say to yourself, "Here are actors." Here are men who don't stand on the stage like sticks, and speak their lines as though they were mouthing doggerel.

Hare's support is capital, because Hare isn't a tree, or any egotistic star who believes that one actor will make any play, and in any play, after all, but a mere detail. Miss Susie Taubman, as a clerical lady, all straitlacedness and smooth hair, all abominable virtue, and mistaken charity, won instant recognition. A better sketch has not been seen upon a New York stage for years, and the audience was not slow to realize this. Then there was May Harvey, who played the part of Mrs. Jermyn. Miss Harvey was a trifle too declamatory, and the affectedness of her utterances reminded you at times of Olga Nethersole at her worst.

Miss Harvey pronounced all her 's' as 'sh.' She said "mushy" for "mind"; "spray-spraying" for "surprising," and "reconcile" for "reconcile." But she is a clever young woman, and she was in dead earnest. We forgave her the little eccentricities that may be called mannerisms, and wished that there were more actresses of her calibre. Miss Mona K. Orom also suffered from affectation. Charles Groves as a "decayed jockey"—an absurdly exaggerated character—seemingly confirmed the excellent impression that he made last season. Frederick Kerr, Gilbert Hare, and Nellie Thorne were distinctly good.

"The Hobby Horse" is certainly a capital play for "fired" people who don't want to laugh too much, or cry too much, or do anything too much. It is enjoyment in moderation. It is the sort of evening of which nobody on earth could complain—and it is therefore worthy of commendation. A skittish cat that capered across the stage at an inopportune moment almost "broke up" the audience, and I would distinctly suggest to the stage manager that he provide chairs that do not give way beneath ladies weighing not more than 150 pounds. I looked on my programme to find the name of the furniture maker—for tradespeople in this metropolis sometimes have a better show than authors. Fortunately, it was withheld. Mr. Hare's next play is to be "Caste," but I hope that he will ride his "Hobby Horse" as long as possible. ALAN DALE.

A Skater's Narrow Escape.
Morristown, N. J., Jan. 4.—Joseph Gillen, of Morris Plains, while skating this afternoon on Speedwell Lake, broke through the ice and narrowly escaped drowning. Had it not been for the timely appearance of his companion, who secured a rope and some fence rails and pulled him out, the boy would have perished. Gillen is a lad about nineteen years of age, and is employed by A. T. Towel, a butcher of that town.

Farmer's Skull Crushed by Tramp.
Plattsburgh, N. Y., Jan. 4.—Martin Ferris, a farmer, aged sixty-five, was found dead in his barn, in Morrisville, a few miles west of this place, late this afternoon. His skull was crushed and it is believed he was killed by a tramp, who was after the old man's money, as he was known to always carry large sums on his person.

FOR AND AGAINST WAGNER.

Emma Eames Aspires to Wagnerian Honors—Melba Is Both Warned and Encouraged.
Wagner a la Mode.

ME. MELBA has the opportunity of choosing between two expert opinions, presented herewith, regarding the advisability of her further appearance in Wagnerian roles. Diego De Vivo, the veteran manager, offers her a solemn warning. William Parry, stage manager for the Metropolitan Opera Company, offers her encouragement.

Emma Eames has no fear of Wagner's music and aspires to sing his great roles.

Signor Bevnigani believes that so far as the "profanes"—that is, the general public—are concerned, Wagner is applauded because he is a la mode. But he, as do the others whose statements are given, bows low to the genius of the German master.

EMMA EAMES HAS NO FEAR OF WAGNER'S MUSIC.

It is humanly impossible for one singer to say what music will or will not fatigue another singer. One can only speak from the standpoint of one's own personal experience. Wagner's music is a great strain upon one's emotional and nervous temperament. That is why one must go slowly in taking up Wagnerian roles for study or interpretation. As one gets older in one's career, and more experienced, one can progressively essay heavier and heavier roles, provided one has the volume and quality of voice appropriate to these parts.

It has been my plan and my hope to do so. It is only, I think, when a woman shall have arrived at the highest stage of artistic and physical development of which she is capable that she should try such parts as the Brunnhilde and Isolde. Though I can hardly contain my impatience to attempt them, I feel that I am still too young to stand the nervous and physical strain, although I am convinced, from the study I have already given them, that they would in no way fatigue my voice. When one has before one such inspiring work to do, one's ambition can never flag; but I wish to approach these heavier roles slowly and with all reverence.

EMMA EAMES STORY.

De Vivo's Warning to Melba.

I respect the genius of Wagner, and I esteem his works, but excepting "Lohengrin," "The Flying Dutchman," "Tannhauser," "Rienzi" and "The Meistersinger," all his other operas are beyond my comprehension. And I do not believe that the Wagner craze will last, save among the German population. This is the humble opinion of one who has listened to opera for fifty years, and who managed for thirty-seven years all the great stars of the '50s, '60s and '70s, among them the great lyric artists, Carlotta Patti, De La Grange, Cortesi, Wachtel, Parepa Rosa, De Muskrat, Pappenheim, Albani, Campanini, Fursch-Madl and Nordica.

Naturally, as I am born Italian, I do love Italian opera, which in my opinion will last longer than any other. I managed all English and German opera companies, and noted the effect upon the voices of the different schools. The artists I have named were trained to sing both lyric and dramatic music, and both their pretensions and their salaries were a great deal less than those of operatic stars of the present day. Yet the former were equal to the requirements of all composers, of whatever school.

The effect of singing constantly in Wagner's operas is the sacrifice of the voice in ten years' time. If Mme. Melba, who has the finest soprano voice now on the operatic stage, and is the most perfect coloratura singer of the present day, in a few years her voice will have deteriorated. I hope she will leave Wagner out of her repertoire—leave the German opera to whom it belongs—to the purely dramatic singers.

DIEGO DE VIVO.

SIG. BEVIGNANI SAYS WAGNER IS A LA MODE.

In answer to your request to obtain my views on the Wagnerian operas and the old school, allow me to ask you what you intend for old school. I suppose the operas of Meyerbeer, Rossini, Bellini, etc., etc. If it is so, in my opinion those operas were enjoyed by every one—musicians, amateurs and profanes. The Wagnerian music can only be enjoyed by real musicians and good amateurs; but the profanes (of which consist the generality of the paying public) rush to the theatre, applaud enthusiastically, because—Wagner est a la mode!

E. BEVIGNANI.

HOPES BLIND WILL SEE.

Dr. Edson Encouraged by the Use of X Rays on the Sightless Eyes of John F. Martin.

Dr. David R. Edson's further experiments with X-rays yesterday have strengthened his belief that he may be able to restore vision to John F. Martin, who has been totally blind for ten years. All authorities agree that Martin's trouble is atrophy of the optic nerve, and there are abundant cases to demonstrate that atrophy has been cured by stimulation or irritation of the parts affected.

When Dr. Edson discovered last week that he could give Martin a sense of light by means of X-rays, which the brightest ordinary electric light could not produce, he realized that he had found the means of stimulation which had long been sought in vain.

As the result of the first treatment Martin saw the light from the fluorescence of the X-rays more quickly yesterday than on the previous occasion. This was regarded as a hopeful indication, and the doctor is ultimately bringing back the optic nerve to its normal condition.

Dr. Cyrus Edson was present at the treatment in the Hotel Majestic yesterday, and intimated the reasonableness of his brother's theory. Arrangements have been made for Martin's subjection to X-rays for a short period daily.

SAYS HE NEVER GOT HIS FEE.

Why Lawyer Van Hovenburg Let the Ruppener Will Case Go By Default.

An effort is being made to set aside a judgment obtained in the Supreme Court before Justice Barrett, in the contest of the will of the late Dr. Ruppener, which was granted by default, and which affirmed the judgment of the Surrogate admitting the will to probate. It is charged by Mrs. Clara Ellensohn, Dr. Ruppener's sister, who lives in Hungary, that her first attorney, Alfred A. Van Hovenburg, of Paterson, conspired with the attorney for the executor, to have the probate confirmed by the default judgment. She now has another attorney, S. D. Edwards, who moved, before

William Parry Cites Melba.

The French and Italian artists who sing for the first time in German exaggerate the difficulties they have to contend with, and start in by half losing the race before the flag falls by being afraid of the task they are about to undertake. Take, for instance, the case of Mme. Melba. She was scolded to death at rehearsal until encouraged by Jean De Reszke, who told her, in my presence, that Wagner had evidently in his mind just such a voice as hers when he wrote the music of Brunnhilde, and that he (Jean De Reszke) had every confidence in her success, inasmuch as she possessed the proper training, an essential portion of which is breathing power. This latter Mme. Melba positively possesses in a great degree, as was exemplified in her rendition of that character at its initial performance this season. Wagner, in my opinion, was too great a master to write music that was impossible for his pupils to render, providing they had the necessary voice. Again referring to the case of Mme. Melba, it is absurd to say that she has abandoned the Bayreuth cult, because, through illness, she was unable to sing the second night of "Siegfried." I hope to have the pleasure of hearing her beautiful rendition of other Wagnerian characters that are familiar to us all. I refer to Elsa in "Lohengrin" and Elizabeth in "Tannhauser." And, by the by, what a beautiful Senta in "The Flying Dutchman" she would make! I believe that the taste for Wagner's operas is growing. The best proof of the pudding is in the eating, and the crowded houses at the Metropolitan Opera House at each Wagner performance demonstrate more clearly than anything else what I have stated.

WILLIAM PARRY.

Tammany Men in Caucuses.
A caucus of the Tammany members of the Assembly was held yesterday afternoon at the office of John C. Sheehan, No. 228 Broadway. It was decided to support Daniel E. Finn, of the First District, in this city for the minority leader. The Democratic caucus will be held in the afternoon at the Tammany headquarters, where the selection of Mr. Finn.

He has served in the Assembly for seven or eight terms, and is thoroughly familiar with Albany life. In addition to being a good parliamentarian, he is a quick and ready debater, and will give the Assemblymen a hard battle before the close of the session.

Tribute to the Late Mark Hoyt.
A meeting of the hide and leather trade in the Hide and Leather Club's rooms yesterday honored the memory of the late Mark Hoyt, president of the United States Leather Company. The speakers were Charles A. Schenck, Richard Young, Norman Rees, Isaac H. Bailey, George H. Raymond and P. G. Costello. A committee of five was appointed to draft appropriate resolutions.

Special Notices.
E. & W. WINAMAK, E. & W. A NEW CELLAR.

MRS. WINKLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP FOR children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, etc. WILKES' PINK PILLS FOR PALE AND GRAY men and women. It cures the system, builds up the blood, and gives the complexion a healthy glow. Parker's Ginger Tonic the best cough cure.

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A. KNOW your fate and fortune; consult Nilo, scientific palmist, 122 W. 23d st., fee \$1.

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Brooklyn.
YOU can have bright, beautiful eyes by using Sparklelax; perfectly harmless; improves and strengthens the sight; send 25c. in stamps or silver. Sparklelax Co., 1551 Broadway, Brooklyn.

Deaths.
HAGAN—In South San Francisco, January 1, James Herold Hagan, beloved son of James and Katie Hagan, a native of San Francisco, aged 13 years. (New York and Brooklyn papers please copy).

Wanted—An Idea
Who can think of some simple thing to patent? Protect your ideas; they may bring you wealth. Write JOHN W. WILKES, Esq., Dept. P. L., Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C., for their \$1,800 price offer and new list of 1,000 inventions wanted.

I Cure Varicocele
and all effects from abuse and excesses. No operation. No clamps or compressors. No detention from work. No possible danger. Simply Galvanic Electricity. It is Nature's Remedy. My Electric Body Battery, in form of a belt, is put on when you go to bed, and the mild, exhilarating continuous current sent through the congested veins during the night speedily dissolves the trouble, and cures in a few weeks. My pamphlet, "Three Classes of Men," has an illustrated treatise on this complaint, and every such sufferer should read it. Sent free on application. Address DR. SANDEN, 826 BROADWAY, N. Y.

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WAIT FOR ORDERS FROM MR. PLATT.

Legislators Cannot Do Anything, Being Without Instructions.

Speaker-to-Be O'Grady Back in Albany, but He Is "in the Dark."

Senator Raines Still Busy Preparing Changes in His Excise Law.

HE IS UNABLE TO DEFINE MEALS.

Neither Can He, by Law, Wipe Out Bogus Hotels and Clubs—Finn, of Tammany, to Be Minority Leader.

Albany, Jan. 4.—Republican legislators are here on "waiting orders." The instructions have not arrived from No. 40 Broadway, and no one will say what is to be done until these orders come. James M. E. O'Grady, of Rochester, who is to be speaker, arrived in town this evening, and immediately went to his house and denied himself to all callers. Although he had headquarters at the "Club," he did not go near them. The country members, who wanted to talk with O'Grady about his legislative assignments and the caucus to-morrow evening, were disappointed, but they learned that he had not been told as to whom he was to promise the places, and did not want to see any one until he had received word from Mr. Platt.

Charles W. Hackett came to town at 10 o'clock to supervise the organization of the Legislature for Mr. Platt.

Such dreary ante-session days the old-timers say they never before experienced. Never was it more manifest that Mr. Platt thoroughly controls the Legislature than has been the case during the last few days. No one looks with interest on the caucuses of the majority, the slate having been prepared a long time ago for the officers of the Legislature. Senator Coggeshall is to be with the breakwaters this year. Last year he was marked down as an independent Republican, but the Blue Book issued to-day says he is a Republican, and he has received a cordial invitation to attend the conference of the Republican Senators to be held to-morrow evening.

Robbins, the "Independent."
Assemblyman Fred A. Robbins, of Allegany County, expects to be the independent member of the Legislature. In the Blue Book he is dubbed an independent Republican, and he will not be invited to attend the caucus of the Republican Assemblymen.

He is happy over the condition of affairs, for he is aggressive, and one of the brightest and most earnest men in the Legislature. Last year he was turbulent under the Platt instructions, and this year he will be in open rebellion. "Don't say that I am reconciled," he said to-day, "I haven't forgiven any one, and I don't know that I am forgiven."

Senator Raines was in to see the Governor today to show him some more proof that there were many saloons that have not paid the State excise tax. The Senator had tables showing that over 2,000 saloons throughout the State had not paid the liquor tax fees and did not contribute to the State Treasury.

He was in to see the Governor to see if he could get the Raines law are not yet formulated. There will be no report from the Committee of Investigation, only an amendatory bill, the Senator says. He finds it difficult to get a provision that will kill the Raines hotels and the fake clubs. He admits this, and says that the country will not attempt to define what a meal is. Nor is it likely that there will be any rapid legislation on the Sunday law, for the Senator says that he will not father any summary legislation.

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POPE POSSESSED THE "NEW VIRTUE."

Forgave His Wife, Who Had Elopel with a Song and Dance Man.

She Was Stage Struck, But Repented of Her Act After a Fortnight.

Kept as a Prisoner with Her Little Son in a Room at No. 144 Chrystie Street.

TEARS SOFTENED A HARD HEART.

Threw Her Arms About Her Husband's Neck and Begged Him to Take Her Back to Their Home at Amsterdam.

Matthew H. Pope, a young machinist, of Amsterdam, N. Y., has proved himself the possessor of what sociologists call "the new virtue." He has taken back to his home his lovely young wife, who, lured by the glare of the footlights, recently eloped with a young actor of this city, whose stage name is J. F. Forrest. She, who with her in her flight her eight-year-old son, Harry.

The young woman is well known and respected in Amsterdam, where she is called Little Pope. Domestic in her tastes, her only weak point was her love of the stage. She met Forrest in Amsterdam two weeks ago. He praised her voice, her figure, and told her she would not have the slightest trouble in finding a profitable engagement in New York. She didn't dare tell her husband. She packed her wardrobe, took the boy, Harry, out of school, and fled with the actor before her husband had returned from work. He had no word from her till on Saturday, when he got this letter:

For God sake, Matt, do come as soon as you can.



Happy the home to which a baby comes. Happy the mother who thrills responsive to the touch of baby fingers. Happy if baby is bright, healthy and destined to a life of robust usefulness, but sad indeed if the child is a sickly one, peevish and puny, and sentenced before birth to a life of pain and suffering. It rests with woman herself whether her child be healthy and happy, or sickly and a thankless cross to bear.

Taken during the expectant period Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription will relieve the mother of all the discomforts incident to this condition, and parturition will be free from danger and comparatively free from suffering. It is the best of medicines for diseases of women and is the only medicine in the world that makes the coming of baby safe and easy.

Mrs. Jennie Parks, of Marshall, Spokane Co., Wash., writes: "I am proud to have the opportunity to tell of the results of your great medicine. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. I was benefited by your medicine in confinement, but the greatest blessing I have found is it is such a help to me. It gives me strength. I have tired feeling and my baby is the picture of health. My health was quite broken down but I feel better than I have in ten years."

The newly-wedded wife, above all other women, needs a good medical book. Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser fills this want. It contains over 1,000 pages and 300 illustrations. Several chapters are devoted to the physiology of the organs distinctly feminine. Send in one-cent stamps, to cover cost of mailing only, to the World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y., for a free copy, paper-covered. If a cloth binding is wanted, send 10 cents extra (31 cents in all).

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Clearing Sale;
Before Stock-taking.

Hassocks;
25c.; (worth 75c.)

Smyrna Door Mats;
19 Cents.

Oil Cloth;
Odd lengths; including the very best quality;
19c. per yard.

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69c. per yard.

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COOPER UNION,
8TH ST. AND 2D AVE.
AT NOON,
every day this week (except Saturday).

A. C. DIXON
WILL SPEAK,
IRA D. SANKEY,
assisted by chorus, will sing,
Subject Jan. 5,
"WHAT CAN BE DONE BY FAITH."
Doors open 11:30. Seats free.

D. L. MOODY
WILL SPEAK IN
CARNegie MUSIC HALL,
SATURDAY, JANUARY 10,
at 2 p. m. and 8 p. m. Send stamped envelope to W. E. Louder, 40 East 23d st., for free tickets. Ira D. Sankey will sing.

get this to No. 144 Chrystie street. I am here in a room with Harry, nearly dead. For the love of God try to see me. I am willing to sacrifice. This is all the paper I have and I am stealing this through the window. I am near death; you would think so if you could see me. You will have a chance to get even with me. Come for God's sake, as soon as you can.

The letter was written on a scrap of brown paper, and as she soon found out had been dropped from a window of the Chrystie street house, and mailed with the last two cents in his wife's possession. Pope got the letter too late to start that night, but he arrived in New York by the first train from Amsterdam on Sunday, and sought out Acting Captain Hogan, of the Eldridge Street Station. He went with Pope to the address. On the top floor they found Forrest in bed. Sitting with him was Fannie Bennis, a variety actress, who had come to make a call, and the boy Harry, who went into his father's arms with the cry of "Papa!" The eloping wife was not there.

Forrest and the boy were taken to the station house. They had been there only a few moments when the wife came in, having been told by the wife to go to the house. She said she had got out on the plea of going to the Actors' Fund for money.

On seeing her husband she threw her arms about his neck and implored his mercy and forgiveness. When the manly little son climbed on his knee and begged to be taken back home, tears came into the honest